1st March 1955]

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I want to know whether these mufassal bus-owners got any profit at all or whether they incurred any loss." 3-10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not think they could have made any profit at all. Only normal charges were collected."

SRI V. GURUNANDAN ROW :—" May I ask the Government whether any request was made by the Indian National Congress that such spare buses from the mufassal should be diverted to Avadi or whether the Government took that action of their own accord? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have already answered this question. There was nothing on the part of the Indian National Congress or any organization to ask for the provision of buses for going to Avadi. Government thought that it was their responsibility to serve the public and therefore they required the help of private operators who very gladly co-operated with the Government by sparing their buses without minding the inconvenience caused and the loss that would have accrued."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that public opinion is that in the matter of transport and traffic arrangement during the Avadi Session of the Congress, the Government did very well? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, may I thank Dr. John for that? " (Laughter.)

SRI A. M. ALLAPICHAI :—" Whenever there is religious festival in a temple or some such thing, do the Government if necessary divert these buses to that particular place, in the nature of things, to cope with the increased traffic? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" To Kodambakam we divert our buses, if necessary, if more buses are required. Otherwise unless it be for compelling reasons, we do not divert our buses."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

III.—POINT OF INFORMATION *RE* THE UNION PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS PASSED BY BOTH THE HOUSES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" On a point of information, Sir, when looking into the old proceedings of the legislature, I find that whenever assent has been given to a Bill passed by the two Houses of the Legislature by the Governor or the Governor-General (now President), the announcement of such assent is to be made in the Houses of the Legislature. I do not know why that procedure is not followed now. I want that convention should be followed, viz., of making such announcement in the House when the Houses of

the Legislature are sitting and by communicating the same by demi-official letter to the members when the House is not in session. I am making this suggestion for your consideration, Mr. Chairman, and for the consideration of the Hon. Leader of the House."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think the remarks of the hon. Member refer to the consent that is reported to have been received from the President for the Indebted Agriculturists (Repayments of Debts) Bill. No consent has yet been communicated to the Hon. Speaker. If it has been communicated to the Speaker, I have no doubt it would have been communicated to the Hon. Chairman also and then the Speaker and Chairman would have announced it to the Houses concerned. That is the usual practice. But, Sir, some hon. Member in the other House raised a question yesterday when the assent of the President to that Act would be received and whether it would be received in time, to which the Leader of the other House had to answer and he had just then received the information about the receipt of consent from the President and he gave that information. There was no such announcement by the Hon. Speaker in the other House."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" I think it is good to resume that practice of making such announcements (as soon as the assent from the Governor or President is received) in the House. When the House is not sitting, I think the announcement of the consent by the Governor or President may be communicated to the hon. Members' addresses by demi-official letter."

IV.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1955-56—*cont.*

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" We shall now take up the discussion on the budget. Mr. K. Bhashyam may now speak."

* SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" The budget that was presented has evoked in me feelings of a mixed character. I think Dr. John nods his head and he agrees with me. Well, I am glad that Government have expanded their activities in all departments. They have also at the same time hit upon some taxation measures. That is why I say the budget has evoked in me feelings of a mixed character. As regards the activities of Government in the direction of rural welfare and in the programme of rural electrification, I think the progress made so far has been remarkably good. But one point that has been the cause of some concern is what the Hon. Leader of the House told the House while introducing the budget, viz., that we have practically come to the end of our water resources. It was somewhat disquieting to us to hear it. Agriculture has to be intensified in two ways. One is by improving the yield of the land by chemical manures and the other is by irrigation. What with all of our electric schemes we could do if our water resources are exhausted, is a thing which is worth pondering over. The question of tapping the subsoil water is of course there for the purpose of cultivation. But for the generation of electricity,